Attachment 6 – Program Preferences

This project addresses Human Right to Water, all Program Preferences, and all but one of the Statewide Priorities.

Human Right to Water. This project will provide recharge that will help make water supply more affordable by sustaining the declining local aquifer and delaying capital improvements and rate increases. This project will meet the critical water supply and water quality needs of the DAC of Parlier. The project will provide improvements to assure continued reliability of minimum quality and quantity of water, and help Parlier meet legislation requirements for Sustainable Groundwater Management. The City is a strong supporter of the project as indicated in a support letter (**Attachment 6a).**

Regional Project or Programs. The project would create a new water supply, averaging 1,320 AF/year that would be available on the market for water agencies. CID would not be the only beneficiary of this new water supply as exchanges would likely occur between with other agencies in the Kings Basin.

Integrate water management programs within a hydrologic region. The project integrates flood water capture; fisheries program establishment, DAC benefit, groundwater banking, and dry year supply within the Kings Basin by capturing flood water lost to the region and making 1,320AF/yr available to the region.

Effectively resolve significant conflicts within or between regions. The project will provide a new supply to the region, helping to resolve conflicts within the overdrafted region. The project is also associated with the agreement between Parlier and CID that was negotiated to help reduce groundwater conflicts.

Contribute to CAL-FED Bay-Delta Program Objectives. The project will divert Kings River floodwater that has historically flowed past the James Bypass. These waters have entered the San Joaquin River and flowed to the Delta. By diverting these waters, flood flows and flood water levels will be lower in the Delta.

Critical Water Supply and Needs for DACs. As noted above, the project will provide recharge to the City of Parlier, a DAC that relies solely on groundwater for supply. CID has conducted meetings with City staff, the most recent was in June 2015 between CID General Manager Phil Desatoff and City Manager Israel Lara; the content of the meeting included project benefits to the City in terms of lowering pumping costs, improving groundwater quality and water supply reliability.

Integrate water management programs with land use planning. All regional projects involving the Kings Basin Water Authority are developed to meet established urban and metropolitan water management plan objectives. These water management plans are consistent with the goals of the California Water Plan and several other statewide and regional plans. The recharge at the CID's recharge project is part of a cooperative agreement between the City of Parlier and CID (**Attachment 6b**) to provide mitigation for increased groundwater pumping caused by existing and planned urban development within the City of Parlier.

Drought Preparedness. CID's project will recharge an average of 2,268 AF/year. This water will be stored and available for pumping in dry years, up to an estimated 1,320AF/yr.

Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently. The project will capture and reuse as much as 6,000AF/yr (or an average of 2,268AF/yr as shown in Table 5) of water that would otherwise be lost to the region. This will include Kings River floodwater that typically Kings River floodwater, as well as utilizing Kings River Fish flows that are available in certain times of the year when demands are low.

Climate Change Response Action. If climate change results in earlier snowmelt the region may see earlier and more frequent flood releases. This project will capture Kings River floodwater and help to adapt to these changes. The project creates a dry-year supply of up to 1,320AF/yr that will improve resiliency and help to adapt to climate change induced droughts. The project will also help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Expand Environmental Stewardship. The CID project will allow flows for the Kings River Fisheries Management Program from its stored surface water supply, then recharge and later use those banked supplies. The CID project will create more than 50 acres combined temporary habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Practice Integrated Flood Management. In very wet years, the amount diverted could total more than 6,000AF. This will make a significant contribution towards flood control on the Kings River. This project will also reduce water levels and peak flows on the Kings River during flood periods, reducing flood risk.

Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality. The project will recharge high quality Kings River water in an area with known groundwater quality problems including elevated levels of nitrates and arsenic. Recent water quality data shows that Kings River water has superior quality, while the groundwater often exceeds the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for drinking water standards. Through blending and dilution the groundwater quality is expected to improve.

Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits. This project will provide benefit to the City of Parlier and disadvantaged community area surrounding the project. The Kings Basin Water Authority has made it a priority to include and encourage the participation of small unincorporated DACs with the IRWM process. If funded through this grant, the funding will reduce the financial burden placed on the local water customers.